

# Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 23, 2004

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## Johnson Secures Project Funding for Fifth District

*Defense Bill Means Stronger National Defense, Jobs in Connecticut*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The defense bill that passed the U.S. House late Thursday will mean a stronger national defense for America and more jobs in Connecticut, Congresswoman Nancy Johnson said today.

“These projects will not only strengthen our national defense capability, they will strengthen our local economy and support jobs in Connecticut,” Johnson said. “The supply chain will give small and mid-size manufacturers a bigger voice in the defense contracting process, resulting in more opportunities and more jobs for Connecticut workers.”

Johnson secured the projects in the FY2005 Defense spending bill, which passed the House late Thursday by a 410-12 vote. Johnson successfully urged Defense Subcommittee Chair Jerry Lewis (R-CA) to include the following projects in the bill.

- **New England Manufacturing Supply Chain** – \$5.6 million for the New England Manufacturing Supply Chain program, a joint effort sponsored by the region’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership centers. Previous allocations have allowed the region’s 23,000 small manufacturers to connect with and participate in the Department of Defense contracting process.  
  
New funding will allow the Chain to continue educating small manufacturers and team qualified small firms with prime contractors. Funding for this program will help meet defense procurement shortages while simultaneously bolstering an important sector of Connecticut’s economy. Johnson joined with her colleagues from New England in support of funding this important program.
- **Advanced Power Systems, Lakeville** – \$1.5 million for procurement of fuel catalysts that dramatically improve fuel efficiency in Navy ships and military equipment.
- **Fuel Cell Energy, Danbury** – \$1.5 million for research into fuel cell power plants for military bases. These fuel cells allow bases to generate clean energy independently and without tapping into the local electricity grid
- **UConn Health Center, Farmington** – \$1.8 million for a study into ways to “precondition” a soldier so that his or her cardiovascular system is as prepared as possible to adapt to the stresses of fighting in heat, cold, and at altitude.

- **Ensign Bickford, Simsbury** – \$1 million for procurement of modern demolition devices. These devices are used in Afghanistan in cave-clearing and in the Balkans and Iraq in munition disposal operations. Ensign Bickford received \$3 million in the FY04 defense bill.
- **Sikorsky, Bridgeport** – \$63.6M above the President's budget request to manufacture 51 new UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. Johnson joined with the entire Connecticut congressional delegation in support of funding of this indispensable military asset.

The spending bill will now proceed to the President's desk for his signature.

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